



**January 9, 2004**

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**TO:** Board of Directors, CRWCD

**FROM:** Don Meyer

**SUBJECT:** *Treatment of Tamarisk Infestation at Wolford Mountain Reservoir*

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### **Tamarisk at Wolford**

Tamarisk, a noxious weed which has not been observed along the Colorado River Corridor in Grand County, has arrived at Wolford Mountain Reservoir. Plants are dispersed in colonies around the perimeter of the reservoir, just below the high water line, with about a dozen plants in the emergency spillway (see photos next page). No tamarisks were found in the spillway approach channel. Infestation does not appear to rival native vegetation at this time. Plants are young, probably having been established after the reservoir last spilled in 2000. Plant distribution supports a wind blown dispersion and is a function of soil type, slope, and available moisture. Removal will be a cooperative effort between CRWCD, BLM (Pete Torma), USFS (Neeley Tibbs), Grand County (Billy Sumerlin), and the Habitat Partnership Program (DOW).

Eradication methods include herbicide application by helicopter or manually (on foliage or stump), burning, or physical removal. Because plants are not well developed and are widely spaced at Wolford, a manual herbicide application is preferred. Herbicides will not immediately kill tamarisk, but several applications over a period of time have been shown to be effective. Inundation of the plants for several weeks when the reservoir spills will help to kill plants below the high water line.

An off-season application of herbicide is planned for February, as soon as BLM processes a Pesticide Use Proposal. Concerns about the use of herbicides around water and sensitive species are being addressed in this process. A follow-up application is planned in the fall. A proposal for manual application of herbicide has been submitted by Paul Schreiner, owner of Eco- Rx, LLC, Noxious Weed / Vegetation Management.



**Tamarisk near Ritschard Dam**



**Tamarisk in Emergency Spillway and North of Dam.  
Eco-Rx, LLC, Contract for Tamarisk Treatment**